

## AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (currently amended) A tool for cutting and stripping a sheath from an electrical cable, the electrical cable having a spaced pair of insulated power conducting wires, a ground wire disposed between the power conducting wires, and the sheath surrounding the power conducting and ground wires, the sheath having a pair of spaced side portions that contain the power conducting wires and a central portion disposed therebetween that contains the ground wire, the tool comprising:
  - a) a pair of levers having jaw, boss and handle portions, each handle portion having an insulated cover;
  - b) a pivot joining the boss portions to enable relative movement of the levers about the pivot between open and closed positions;
  - c) the jaw portions each having blade sections for coactively circumferentially severing the sheath when the levers are moved from the open to the closed position;
  - d) each blade section having a set of three aligned cutting parts of a cutting edge, the set of three cutting parts including a spaced pair of end cutting parts being contoured to cut the side portions of the sheath and a raised middle cutting part between the end cutting parts for cutting the central portion of the sheath, wherein the raised middle cutting part is arcuate with end portions curving toward a longitudinal axis of the tool; and
  - e) the cutting parts together forming a cable wire receiving opening when the levers are in the closed position, the cable receiving opening being of a configuration smaller than the configuration of the sheath, such that the sheath is circumferentially severed when the levers are moved from the open to the closed position.
- 2-3. (cancelled)

4. (previously presented) The tool of claim 1, wherein the cable receiving opening is sized such that the perimeter of the sheath is completely cut through when the levers are moved from the open to the closed position.
5. (currently amended) A tool for cutting and stripping a sheath from an electrical cable, the electrical cable having a spaced pair of insulated power conducting wires, a ground wire disposed between the power conducting wires, and the sheath surrounding the power conducting and ground wires, the sheath having a pair of spaced side portions that contain the power conducting wires and a central portion disposed therebetween that contains the ground wire, the tool comprising:
  - a) a pair of levers having jaw, boss and handle portions, each handle portion having an insulated cover;
  - b) a pivot joining the boss portions to enable relative movement of the levers about the pivot between open and closed positions;
  - c) the jaw portions each having blade sections, each blade section having a set of three aligned cutting parts of a cutting edge, the three cutting parts including a spaced pair of end cutting parts configured to at least partially cut through the side portions of the sheath, and a raised middle cutting part provided between the end cutting parts and configured to cut the central portion of the sheath, wherein the raised middle cutting part is arcuate with end portions curving toward a longitudinal axis of the tool; and
  - d) the cutting parts on each blade section together forming a cable receiving opening when the levers are in the closed position, the cable receiving opening is sized such that, when the levers are moved from the open to the closed position, the perimeter of the sheath is cut.
- 6-7. (cancelled)
8. (previously presented) The tool of claim 5, wherein the cable receiving opening is sized such that the perimeter of the sheath is completely cut through when the levers are moved from the open to the closed position.

9. (new) A tool for cutting and stripping a sheath from an electrical cable, the electrical cable having a spaced pair of insulated power conducting wires, a ground wire disposed between the power conducting wires, and the sheath surrounding the power conducting and ground wires, the sheath having a pair of spaced side portions that contain the power conducting wires and a central portion disposed therebetween that contains the ground wire, the tool comprising:
- a) a pair of levers having jaw, boss and handle portions, each handle portion having an insulated coating;
  - b) a pivot joining the boss portions to enable relative movement of the levers about the pivot between open and closed positions;
  - c) the jaw portions each having blade sections for coactively circumferentially severing the sheath when the levers are moved from the open to the closed position;
  - d) each blade section having a set of three aligned cutting parts of a cutting edge, the set of three cutting parts including a spaced pair of end cutting parts being contoured to cut the side portions of the sheath and a raised middle cutting part between the end cutting parts for cutting the central portion of the sheath, wherein the raised middle cutting part is substantially straight and substantially parallel with respect to a longitudinal axis of the tool; and
  - e) the cutting parts together forming a cable wire receiving opening when the levers are in the closed position, the cable receiving opening being of a configuration smaller than the configuration of the sheath, such that the sheath is circumferentially severed when the levers are moved from the open to the closed position.
10. (new) The tool of claim 9, wherein the cable receiving opening is sized such that the perimeter of the sheath is completely cut through when the levers are moved from the open to the closed position.